

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ZHOUYI WANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zhouyi Wang for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Zhouyi Wang is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Zhouyi Wang is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Zhouyi Wang for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on Friday, June 9, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge John E. Martin, will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On June 9, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Fabian Alejandro Gonzalez Franco, Muralidhar Ganji, Qiang Xu, Gustavo Quijada Vega, Alan John McDonald, Marco Antonio Gonzalez Jimenez, Krysta Carmella Ma Abuyo Mapoy, Miao Cai, Blagica Bujaroska, Penina Kagwiria Imanene, Gaulo Amezcu Luna, Marvin Antonio Sandoval, Dolores Eumelia Romero, Paula Phan Duong, Juan Diego Salgado, Hang Trung Dinh, Noe Joel Salazar, Ahmed Abed Kanaan, Vicar

Serrano Valencia, Thales Felipe Neves Pontes, Mara Carolina Stibitz, Smruti Prabodhchandra Damania, Tatiana Carolina Zambrano Marin, Ishvarbhai Venabhai Patel, Pascual Lopez Rocha, Laura Ivonne Carmona Garcia, Liz Yessica Relinski, Yongtao Zhang, Maryrose Sachiko Moore, and Apollo Raj Velummylum.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on June 9, 2017. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RALPH PONTILLO

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of my constituents from Western Pennsylvania, Mr. Ralph Pontillo. Following nearly 30 years of service, Ralph recently retired as president of the Manufacturer & Business Association (MBA), a professional trade organization that represents more than 3,000 member companies in the tri-state region.

Ralph is a veteran of the United States Air Force and a native of Erie County, where he graduated from Strong Vincent High School and Gannon University, earning a baccalaureate degree in political science. Ralph joined the MBA in 1987 and served as manager of member services until he was named president on April 1, 1990. Ralph maintained his role as president for the following three decades, creating a legacy built on advocating for the business community.

Throughout his tenure, Ralph was instrumental in much of the MBA's success, including the facility relocation to its present headquarters and the construction of the MBA's Conference Center. These two projects allowed the MBA to expand and offer additional programs and services, enabling the MBA to

become one of the largest regional employer associations of its kind.

Ralph is credited with spearheading one of the MBA's most visible community outreach programs, the annual Roar on the Shore® charitable motorcycle rally. Roar on the Shore® is one of the fastest-growing charitable motorcycle rallies in the United States, attracting approximately 165,000 visitors to the Erie area annually, creating an economic boost of more than \$25 million. Over the past ten years, the rally has raised more than \$800,000 for local charities.

Ralph has actively participated in a number of local, state and national boards, voluntarily dedicating his time and effort in order to support various initiatives. Ralph is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and for more than 20 years has maintained the status of a Certified Association Executive, a professional designation that recognizes the highest level of achievement and excellence in the profession. Ralph's expertise has been an absolute asset to the various boards and organizations with which he has been involved.

Ralph is an admirable professional who has created a praiseworthy legacy built on advocacy and service. He took advantage of his role as President of the MBA, continuously striving for greatness in all that he did. Ralph has made lasting contributions and the Erie community will reap the benefits of his efforts long after his retirement. Ralph will be remembered as a catalyst for improvement and a longtime champion for the business community.

CANTERBURY COUGARS BASEBALL

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Canterbury School's men's baseball team for their second consecutive Class 3A State Championship. The Cougars clinched the Title following their tremendous 4–1 victory over Jacksonville University Christian at Hammond Stadium in their hometown of Fort Myers. This triumph came through their outstanding teamwork and ability to adapt during games. The Title caps off an excellent season where the team achieved an astounding record of 27 wins to just 5 losses.

I congratulate the Canterbury Cougars and Head Coach Frank Turco for an excellent season and this unforgettable win. I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of these young men in the years to come.

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